

# HORBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF

BENJAMIN KEMP,

MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 1894]

PRESENTED MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 1895.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Horbury Urban District Council,*

GENTLEMEN,

For the 21<sup>st</sup> time I have again the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1894.

As in previous years, my information as to the sanitary condition of your District has been obtained by frequent inspections ; special inspections being made sometimes, along with your Inspector of Nuisances, where infectious disease was notified. I have also supplied you with a Quarterly Report on the Health of the District.

**BIRTHS.**—The number registered during the year was 176, exactly the same number as the previous year ; being 3 more than 1892, and 8 more than 1891. Of these 79 were Boys, and 97 Girls.

In the 1st Quarter there were...	...	...	...	...	18 males	...	20 females
" 2nd "	"	"	...	...	22 "	...	15 "
" 3rd "	"	"	...	...	11 "	...	26 "
" 4th "	"	"	...	...	28 "	...	36 "
Total					79	"	97

The Birth-rate was equal to 29·4 per 1000 persons living, as compared with 29·7 in 1893, 29·6 in 1892, 29·3 in 1891, 30·08 in 1890, and 27·2 in 1889.

**ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.**—Out of the total number of Births 7, or 1 in 25, were illegitimate ; of these 2 were males, and 5 females.

**DEATHS.**—During the year there has been 101 deaths registered from all causes, of which 52 were males and 49 females, being 1 more than in 1893 ; in 1892, 66 ; in 1891, 103 ; in 1890, 90 ; in 1889, 62 ; 1888, 92. The following table shews the number of deaths in each quarter :—

1st Quarter	...	...	...	...	9 males	...	11 females.
2nd "	"	...	...	...	21 "	...	13 "
3rd "	"	...	...	...	6 "	...	10 "
4th "	"	...	...	...	16 "	...	15 "
Total					52	"	49

**POPULATION.**—I estimate the Population at the end of the year to be 5,982, which is simply by births plus deaths, none being added for new houses built during the year. There has been an increase to the population of 75 ; as my estimate at the end of 1893 was 5,907, in 1892 it was 5,831, being an increase of 76 over 1891. From these figures we get a death-rate of 16·8 per 1,000 persons living. The following table shews the death-rate for the 5 previous years :—

1889	...	...	...	...	10·9
1890	...	...	...	...	15·5
1891	...	...	...	...	17·9
1892	...	...	...	...	11·3
1893	...	...	...	...	16·9

INFANTILE MORTALITY, I am sorry to say, like the previous year, is again high, no less than one-third of the whole deaths having occurred under 5 years of age, the number being 36; of these 23 were under 12 months old. The proportion of these deaths has been at the rate of 6·01 per 1,000 persons living, or 35·6 per cent. of the whole deaths: the proportion of deaths in infants under 12 months old has been at the rate of 13·06 per 1,000 births. The next table shews the number of deaths in children under 5 years of age for the 5 previous years.

1893	...	...	...	...	...	34
1892	...	...	...	...	...	25
1891	...	...	...	...	...	38
1890	...	...	...	...	...	27
1889	...	...	...	...	...	23

The next table shews the number of deaths in each month and at different ages :—

Deaths in 1894.	Under 1 Year	Above 1 Under 5	Above 5 Under 15	Above 15 Under 25	Above 25 Under 65	Above 65	Above 70	Above 80
January .....	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February .....	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August .....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September .....	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
November .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December .....	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	23	13	1	8	36	20	6	5

The following table shews the causes of these deaths, and compares them with the five previous years :—

Deaths in	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
From						
Small Pox ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0	6	0	0	3
Scarlatina ... ..	0	0	0	0	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croup ... ..	0	0	1	1	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	6	2	3	1	0	4
Typhus Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ... ..	0	1	1	0	1	4
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ... ..	1	4	3	0	5	0
Cholera ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	0	0	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pyœmia ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ... ..	2	0	0	1	1	0
Plethisis ... ..	4	6	13	3	7	9
Ague ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis ... ..						
Pneumonia ... ..	13	22	15	16	24	23
Pleurisy ... ..						
Heart Disease ... ..	8	6	4	6	9	14
Influenza ... ..	0	0	6	0	0	0
Injuries ... ..	0	5	3	2	3	2
Diseases not named ... ..	28	44	47	36	49	41
Total ... ..	62	90	103	66	100	101

INQUESTS.—4 Inquests have been held during the year, against 5 in the previous year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year 36 cases have been notified to me, and are classed under the following heads :—

Small Pox	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	15
Scarlatina	...	...	...	16
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	36

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—The deaths from this class are 12, against 8 last year, which include 1 from Scarlatina, 3 from Measles, 4 from Whooping Cough, and 4 from Typhoid Fever.

SMALL POX.—I am glad to say we have only had one case this year, in February, at Horbury Bridge. This man worked amongst rags in Ossett, and it appeared highly probable he caught the disease from the rags. He was at once removed to the hospital at Ossett, whose Corporation kindly permitted your Board to send there any cases of Small Pox occurring in your district. By this prompt action no other case occurred. The bedding, mattress, and pillows were burnt, and the house thoroughly disinfected, the cost of the things burnt being defrayed by your Board. There were 5 cases of this disease last year.

SCARLATINA.—16 Cases of this disease, with one death, were notified, against 47 last year. There were in

January	...	...	...	...	1
February	...	...	...	...	8
March	...	...	...	...	1
April	...	...	...	...	2
June	...	...	...	...	2
July	...	...	...	...	1
September	...	...	...	...	1
Total,	...	...	...	...	16

MEASLES.—In January an epidemic of this disease broke out. The first case occurred in Queen Street, and from inquiries made by me it seems a child was taken to the house of a relative in Wakefield; after some days this child developed measles, other cases soon occurred in the same street; it then gradually spread all over the town. Most of the cases, I believe, were of a mild kind, though 3 children succumbed to this outbreak. In February I advised the Church Infant School to be closed for a fortnight, as more than one half of the scholars were absent, either had the disease or it was in their homes. This outbreak continued until May, when it appeared to die out, all children who were susceptible having had it.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This disease is not amongst those to be notified, though I think it should be, as I often find children are allowed by their parents to attend school when they have this disease. Cases came to my knowledge in March, April, May, June, July, and December, 4 deaths resulting from it.

ERYSIPELAS.—4 Cases have been notified, but no deaths. I believe they were all ordinary cases, and do not call for any special remarks.

TYPHOID FEVER.—15 Cases of this disease have occurred, with 4 deaths, which is more than we have had for many years. These were spread over nine months of the year. In several of the houses where these occurred, the drains were found to be defective, and orders were given to have them remedied, which were complied with. At Hall Cliffe, in January, a young woman came from Middlestown to some relatives ill, which proved to be Typhoid Fever. Other relatives living close by went to the house occasionally, the result being three other cases. Although the drains about these three houses were in proper order, the interior of the houses were damp and not at all clean.

DIARRHŒA is a disease which we generally have in some degree during the summer months, and though we had some cases, they were mostly of a mild character, and not one death; last year there were five deaths.

EXCREMENT and SCAVENGING DISPOSAL is carried on in the same manner as for the last few years, the privy midden with covered ash-pits being chiefly used. These are cleansed about once a month by your own staff of men, who are constantly at work, the ashes and night-soil being carted on to land belonging to farmers.

The amount of this work done is shewn by 1,340 ash-pits having been emptied, and 2,620 loads of night-soil having been removed; also 198 sumps emptied and 978 loads of sewage removed. This work is done at an annual cost of about £176 18s. 4d.



DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, and MILKSHOPS.—These are the same as last year, 35, and are stated by your Inspector to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES are also the same in number as before, 11, and are kept in fairly good order.

CANAL BOATS.—Twenty-three of these have been inspected whilst passing through, as none stop in your district, and so none are registered ; these were found to comply with the regulations concerning them, and were found to be in a very fair condition.

NUISANCES.—Nine notices have been served regarding defective drainage and emptying excrement into gullies ; 7 of these were complied with and 2 not at the end of the year.

NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME.—This extension, I am glad to say, has at last been completed, and is now in full working order, for the purification and disposal of sewage before being allowed to discharge into the river. The system is precipitation and irrigation, about seven acres of land being used for this purpose.

BURIAL GROUNDS.—The extension of the cemetery work has been commenced by the building of a boundary wall, and during the present year the ground will be laid out, drained, &c., ready for use.

NEW BUILDINGS, &c.—During the year plans for the following new erections have been submitted and approved by you, viz. :—New houses, 13 ; alterations and additions to houses, 9 ; additions to schools, 3 ; mill buildings, 1 ; and out-offices, 6.

WATER SUPPLY.—Our water supply is of good quality, and, what is fortunate for us, is that it does not dissolve lead in the pipes like that of some of our neighbouring towns ; consequently, I am not aware that we have had a single case of lead poisoning. But I would suggest to you that it would be a great boon if you could see your way to having a few days' storage, as, from the frequent breaking of main pipes outside your district, the supply is cut off for some time, and the inhabitants have to make use of water from old wells, which is a source of great danger to health.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—In my last Annual Report I alluded to your being in negotiation with the Ossett Corporation for the erection of a Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases, including Small Pox. On their applying to the Local Government Board for their sanction to borrow money for its erection, they appointed Dr. Bulstrode, one of their Inspectors, to hold an enquiry, which was held on the 20th April, 1894, the proposed site being at Storrs Hill, betwixt Ossett and Horbury. There was opposition to the site by the surrounding owners of property, and from the Inspector's Report, the Local Government Board declined to sanction the application of Ossett, so the scheme fell through, and so far as Horbury is concerned nothing more has been done.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

B. KEMP.